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A patterned synthetic sponge mimics a natural sea sponge when creating faux paint finishes. Such synthetic sponge is formed from an open cell elastomeric material that bears a pattern that has been created by a rotating grinding wheel that removes sponge material with a tearing action. A rotating silicon carbide, or other abrasive grit, grinding wheel preferably is used to remove the elastomeric sponge material, which preferably is made from an open cell, *inter alia*, polyurethane, polyether, polyester foamed elastomer. A paint roller made from the novel patterned synthetic sponge has its edges beveled.